

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/W:RAMCGUIRE:HMN
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-----066061 031853Z /53

O R 031705Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BISSAU IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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DAKAR PASS BISSAU BY RADIO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PDIP, SOPN, CV, US

SUBJECT:ANNOUNCEMENT OF US INTENTION TO OPEN EMBASSY AT
PRAIA, CAPE VERDE

REF: STATE 172817

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN
WILL MAKE ON AUGUST 4 CONCERNING US EMBASSY AT PRAIA,
CAPE VERDE: BEGIN TEXT: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS
INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE
THAT WE INTEND TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN PRAIA, CAPE
VERDE BY JANUARY 1, 1978. THE EMBASSY WILL BE HEADED
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BY A RESIDENT CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, A.I. WE WILL CONTINUE
TO ACCREDIT CONCURRENTLY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR RESIDENT
IN BISSAU, GUINEA-BISSAU AS AMBASSADOR TO CAPE VERDE.

THE OPENING OF AN EMBASSY IN CAPE VERDE WILL ENABLE
THE UNITED STATES TO REPRESENT US INTERESTS MORE EFFECTIVELY
AND TO PROVIDE CONSULAR SERVICES TO THE MORE THAN SEVEN

HUNDRED RECIPIENTS OF US FEDERAL BENEFITS CHECKS AND TO THE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 CAPE VERDEANS WHO IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES EACH YEAR.

CAPE VERDE HAS ESTABLISHED AN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND A CONSULATE GENERAL IN BOSTON TO SERVE THE CAPE VERDEAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY WHICH IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 300,000 PERSONS, LARGELY CONCENTRATED IN THE NEW ENGLAND STATES.
END TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING ARE QS AND AS PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE USE OF SPOKESMAN.

Q - CAN WE HAVE SOME BACKGROUND ON CAPE VERDE?

A - THE REPUBLIC CONSISTS OF 10 ISLANDS SITUATED IN THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC OCEAN, ABOUT 400 MILES WEST OF SENEGAL. THE POPULATION OF THE ARCHIPELAGO IS ABOUT 300,000 AND THE CAPITAL IS PRAIA (PRYAH). THE GOVERNMENT IS A SINGLE-PARTY REPUBLIC. THE ONLY POLITICAL PARTY IS THE AFRICAN PARTY FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDE (PAIGC); THIS PARTY ALSO RULES THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU WHICH IS ABOUT 500 MILES SOUTHEAST OF CAPE VERDE. CAPE VERDE ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE FROM PORTUGAL ON JULY 5, 1975 AND WE RECOGNIZED THEM ON THAT DATE. THE FIRST AMERICAN AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO CAPE VERDE WAS MELISSA F. WELLS, WHO PRESENTED HER
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CREDENTIALS TO CAPE VERDEAN PRESIDENT ARISTIDES PEREIRA (PERRYRAH) ON NOVEMBER 18, 1976. AMBASSADOR WELLS WAS POSTED TO THE US MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN APRIL. ON AUGUST 2 THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THE NOMINATION OF EDWARD MARKS AS AMBASSADOR WELLS' SUCCESSOR.

Q - DO WE PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO CAPE VERDE?

A - YES. THE REPUBLIC SUFFERS FROM THE SAME DROUGHT CONDITIONS WHICH AFFECT THE SAHEL NATIONS. SINCE 1975 OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE HAS AMOUNTED TO \$10 MILLION FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS.

Q - ISN'T IT UNUSUAL TO HAVE AN EMBASSY WITHOUT A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR?

A - NO. FOR EXAMPLE IN AFRICA OUR EMBASSIES IN LESOTHO, SWAZILAND, THE GAMBIA, AND THE SEYCHELLES ARE HEADED BY RESIDENT CHARGES WITH THE ACCREDITED AMBASSADOR RESIDING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY.

Q - WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE EMBASSIES THERE?

A - PORTUGAL, BRAZIL, USSR, AND THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA. ALL ARE HEADED BY RESIDENT CHARGES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PORTUGAL.

Q - WHY DIDN'T WE OPEN AN EMBASSY THERE RIGHT AFTER INDEPENDENCE?

A - AT THAT TIME WE WEREN'T SURE THE WORKLOAD WOULD JUSTIFY A RESIDENT MISSION. HOWEVER, OUR AID PROGRAMS AND THE CONSULAR WORK, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED BY OUR EMBASSY IN LISBON, REQUIRE AN EMBASSY.

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Q - HOW ARE OUR RELATIONS WITH CAPE VERDE?

A - OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE VERY CORDIAL.

Q - HOW MANY CUBANS ARE THERE IN THE COUNTRY?

A - OTHER THAN A FEW MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, I DON'T KNOW OF ANY OTHER CUBAN PRESENCE.

Q - IS THERE ANY AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT THERE?

A - NO.

Q - WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CAPE VERDEANS IN THE US?

A - CAPE VERDE WAS A TRADING CALL FOR US SHIPS IN THE 19TH CENTURY. THE FIRST AMERICAN CONSULATE IN CAPE VERDE WAS OPENED IN 1816 AND IT REMAINED IN OPERATION UNTIL 1892. MANY CAPE VERDEANS IMMIGRATED TO THE US IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. CHRISTOPHER

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